



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Celebrate the Value of Water During Drinking Water Week May 6-12**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 7, 2012)** – National Drinking Water Week is a time for Kentuckians to become more aware of the importance of a safe, reliable water supply to their quality of life, including protection of public health, fire suppression and support of the economy.

“Tap water is such an integral part of our daily lives that we sometimes don’t notice its immeasurable value,” said Dave Enzweiler, chairman of the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association. “By keeping water supplies free of contaminants that cause disease, Kentucky’s public water systems reduce sickness and related health costs as well as absenteeism in the workforce. By providing safe and sufficient supplies of water, our public water systems create direct economic value across nearly every sector of our economy.”

#### **Public Health Protection**

In a world where an estimated eight million people die every day from preventable waterborne diseases, people in North America can drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety. Without our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be a tragic part of our everyday life.

In Kentucky, the Division of Water (DOW) is charged with enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure the safety and quality of water produced and distributed by public water systems.

#### **Fire Protection**

In the United States and Canada, over 1.5 million house fires occur each year. While most of us never think about fires until they occur, there is a vast network of water infrastructure in place to protect us when they do. Simply put, a water system that provides reliable water at a high pressure and volume can be the difference between a manageable fire and an inferno.

### **Support for the Economy**

Though often taken for granted, tap water is critical to the daily operations of existing businesses and to the vitality of new commercial enterprises and residential developments. From foods and beverages to toothpastes and perfumes, water is the primary ingredient in hundreds of thousands of everyday products. Therefore, the availability of water resources and service has a profound effect on job creation and overall economic prosperity.

To learn more about how DOW is working to ensure safe drinking water in Kentucky, visit <http://water.ky.gov/DrinkingWater/Pages/InformationforConsumers.aspx>.

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